

BROWNIE NEIGHBORHOOD PARK MASTERPLAN

November 16, 2018

City of Austin Department of Parks + Recreation

North Lamar/ Georgian Acres Neighborhood Team

SSAU Stiphany Sowell Architecture + Urbanism, LLC

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: BROWNIE NEIGHBORHOOD PARK PLANNING PROCESS

City of Austin
Parks and Recreation Department (PARC)

North Lamar/Georgian Acres Neighborhood Team

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SITE CONTEXT

LEGEND

- 1 Existing Playground
- 2 Undeveloped Parcel A
- 3 Undeveloped Parcel B
- 4 Undeveloped Parcel C
- 5 Dr. Guerrero-Thompson Elementary School
- 6 IDEA Rundberg School
- 7 Drainage Swale

SITE PHOTOS



Existing Brownie Playground looking north from Brownie Drive (image: Google Street View)



View of Parcel A from existing playground

SITE PHOTOS



View of Parcel A looking west



View south on Access Road toward IDEA School; drainage swale at east of road

SITE PHOTOS



View of Parcel C looking east



View north toward Brownie Drive and Parcel B from Parcel C



PLANNING PROCESS + DESIGN PRIORITIES

Brownie Park?
in Brownie Park?

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community feedback was gathered through (1) an electronic survey; (2) a survey of elementary school students; and (3) **three community design workshops** on November 18, 2017; January 15, 2018; and March 3, 2018.

1. Online survey

7 respondents

This survey consisted of 17 questions designed to understand which Austin parks residents currently use, how they use Austin parks, and desires for a park in the Rundberg neighborhood. This survey was made available on the City of Austin website.

Direct quotations from respondents:

“Busy Gameplay on 4 courts with parking, lights and restrooms. Great social interaction and community networking.”

“Connected to bicycle network, bike parking, tennis courts, open green space.”

“Well lit, nice facilities, community-centric.”

“Bigger playground where children, parents, pets can play together.”

“Hiking trails, community garden, picnic tables and bbq pits, soccer field or baseball field, walls or a wall with murals created by Austin artists, splash pad.”

“lots of kids playing everyday, beautiful trails, tons of shade, community events taking place at the park.”

“A clean and safe space for all members of the community.”

2. Survey of students

at the Walnut Creek Elementary

34 respondents

This survey was undertaken by the young resident, photographed on page 21.

Average # people in household	5
Average # of children	3

How often do you go to a park?	
Often	26%
Occasional	32%
Rarely	41%

What do you do when visiting a park now?	
Picnic	38%
Walk	44%
Soccer	44%
Hang Out	59%
Play with kids	47%
Basketball	32%
Swim	26%
Other (Pokemon)	6%

What do you want to see in Brownie Park?	
Walking trails	53%
Playground	74%
Duck pond	32%
Nature	50%
Covered Picnic Areas	35%
Basket ball courts	18%
Exercise Equipment	38%
Soccer Field	50%

What should be the most important feature of Brownie Park?

Safety	82%
Open Space	44%
Community	41%

3. Community Design Workshops

Community Design Workshops permitted an understanding of what residents desired for their future park, and where activities should happen. Three workshops were held, two at the Gus Garcia YMCA, and one at the Brownie Park

The **first workshop** (11/18/17), held at YMCA North Austin Community Recreation Center, involved the use of large aerial maps, and icons of activities and challenges identified through the survey. Participants were asked to locate their house, and their observations of challenges, opportunities, and potential activities for Brownie Park. Blank tags were available for participants to create their own activities and/or challenges.

The **second workshop** (1/15/18) was held in Brownie Park, and involved the presentation of a general framework for Brownie Park, based on the findings of the surveys and the first meeting. The second meeting involved feedback from younger neighborhood residents. Three plans were presented and discussed among participants.

The **third workshop** (3/3/18) was held at the Brownie Park, and involved the presentation of a plan that met the majority of social, spatial, and environmental management needs.

VISIONING WORKSHOP: NOVEMBER 18, 2017

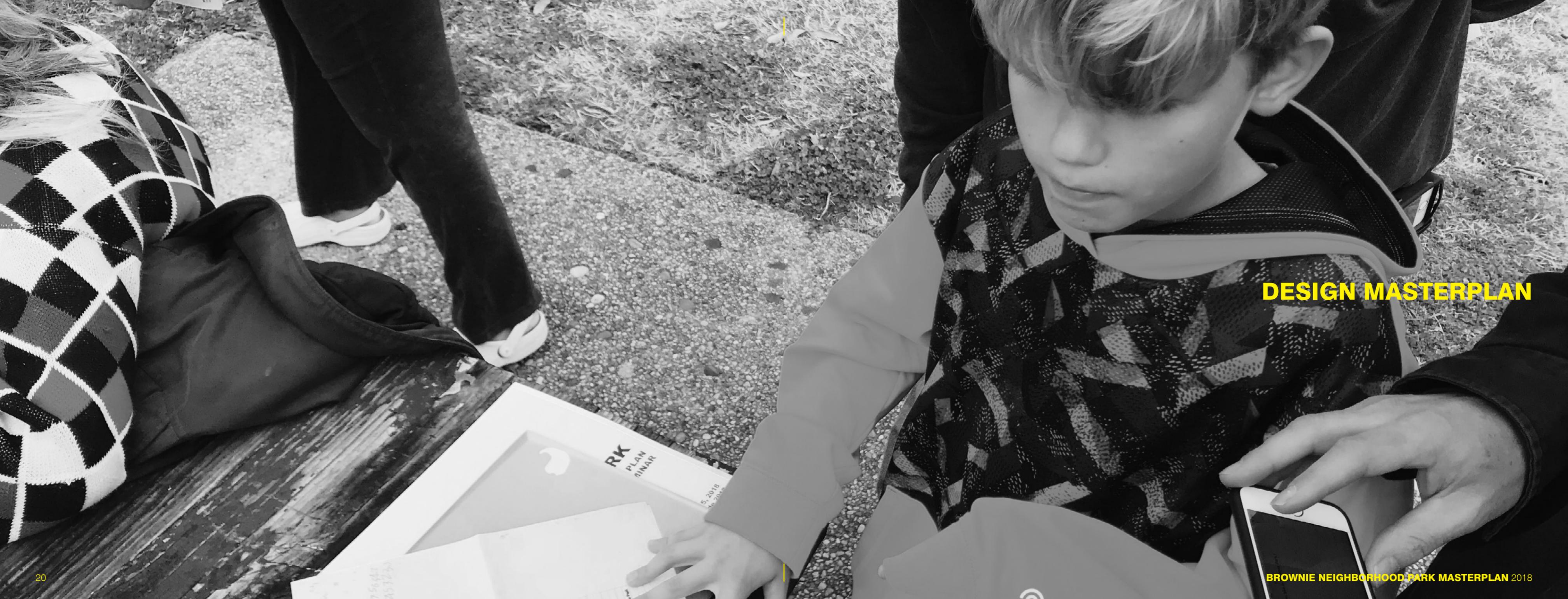


Workshop at Gus Garcia YMCA: PARD, SSAU, and Neighborhood Residents



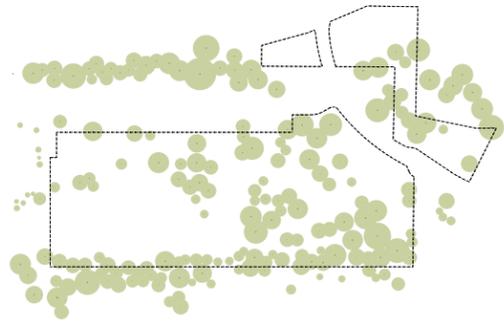
Workshop in Brownie Park: PARD, SSAU, and Neighborhood Residents, and a request for "a lot of slides."





DESIGN MASTERPLAN

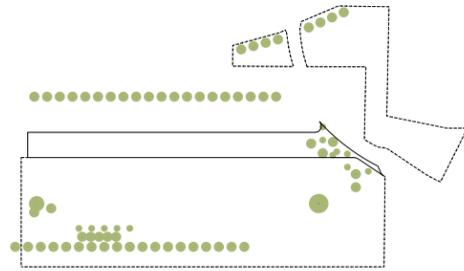
PARK DIAGRAMS



PRESERVE THE TREES

Currently, the site supports a number of mature trees that provide needed shade, habitat, and other ecosystem services. These trees should be surveyed and assessed for their health and potential value in accord with the City's protected and heritage tree ordinances (refer to Austin Municode Chapter 25-8, Subchapter B, Article 1, Divisions 1-3).

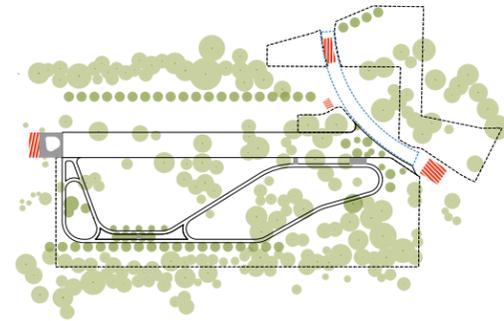
As a significant layer of ready-made, **instant overstory and understory canopy layers**, the trees structure the park's recreational programs, enhance its ecological performance, and contribute to the park's spatial character.



DEFINE EDGES: PLANT NEW TREES

Planting new trees strengthens the park's edges and provides a clear identity for the park's boundaries, especially adjacent to the access road, the Entry Grove, and The Loop.

Additional trees are planted to ensure benches have shade.

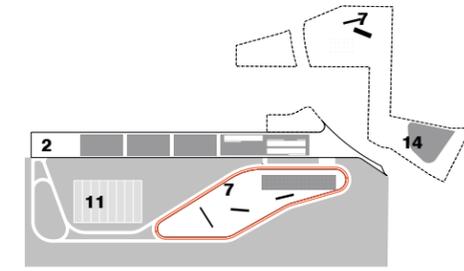


WEAVE THE LOOP + CONNECT PARCELS

The Loop—which supports walking, running, biking, and tricycles—is inset between existing trees to preserve shade and maintain the park's character.

The park is connected to adjacent parcels—which house a community garden, nature play, and unstructured play areas—and the **IDEA Rundberg Charter School** via The Bridge and designated crosswalks.

A **Geofence**, set up along Brownie Drive and the park's entry, triggers an SMS text message alert on smart phones that enter the zone. As a virtual geographic boundary, the geofence will communicate park amenities and events to park users, the community, and passersby.

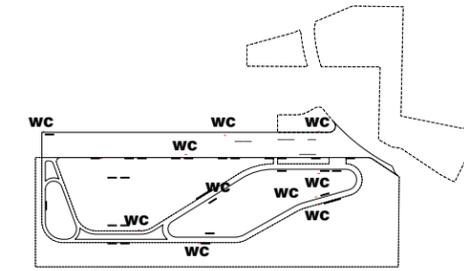


INSERT PROGRAM

Sports courts, a covered picnic area, and sandboxes, are organized in **The Strip (2)**. The linear space concentrates program and paved surfaces along the park's western edge. If appropriate, programs can be phased or constructed into the space over time.

The Loop's undulation among the trees creates a space for **The Field (11)**, a 30 yard x 50 yard area that supports soccer or tag football games. Within the Loop's northern interior, **nature play (7)** areas and climbing walls accommodate a range of inter-generational activities for children and adults.

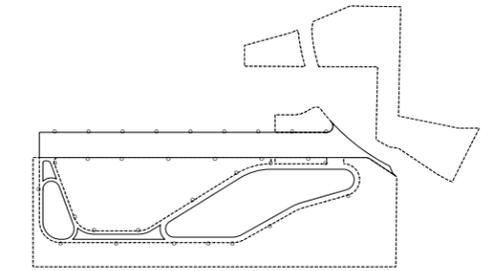
Parcels to the north and west of the main park support a community garden (14) and additional play areas (7).



PROVIDE SEATING + WASTE COLLECTION

Benches are distributed throughout the park to provide places for rest, people-watching, or supervision of play areas.

Waste collection bins have also been provided at strategic locations to facilitate the disposal of trash, recycling, and dog waste and maintain park cleanliness and order.



LIGHT THE PARK

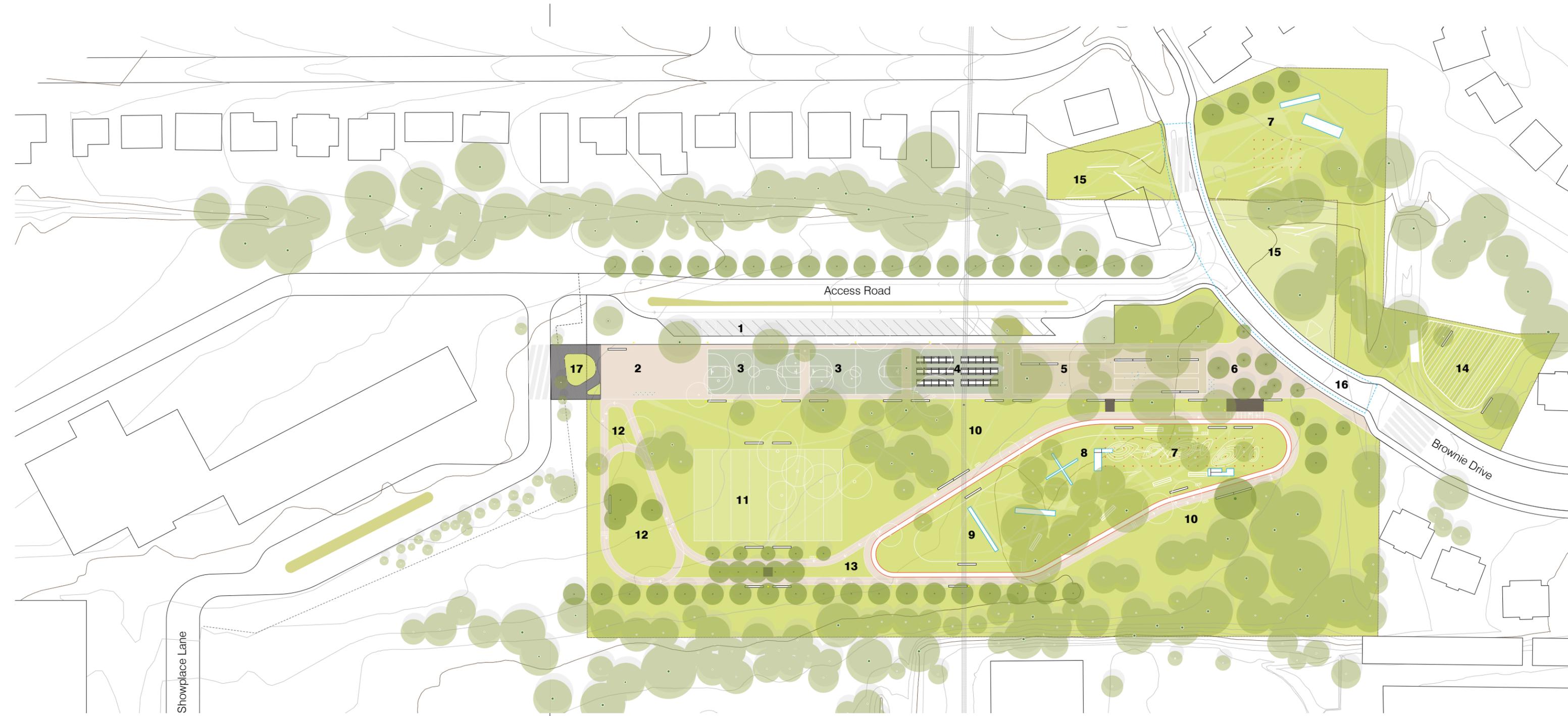
Lighting is located along The Strip and The Loop to improve visibility of park spaces and increase a sense of safety for all park visitors.

SITE PLAN



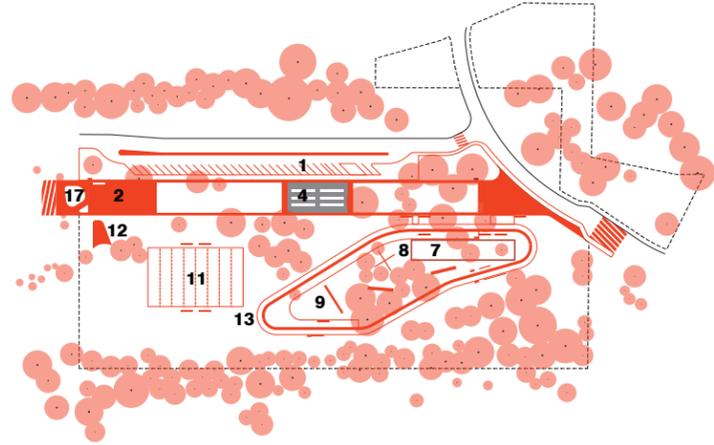
LEGEND

- 1 Parking
 - 2 Activity Strip
 - 3 Sports Courts
 - 4 Covered Picnic/ Party Area
 - 5 Game Courts + Sandbox
 - 6 Entry Grove
 - 7 Nature Play
 - 8 Traditional Play Equipment
 - 9 Climbing Wall
 - 10 Pollinator Meadow
 - 11 Soccer Field (30yd x 50 yd)
 - 12 Future Teaching Garden
 - 13 Loop: Running, Walking, Biking
 - 14 Community Garden
 - 15 Unstructured Play
 - 16 Geofence Zone
 - 17 Bridge to School
-
- Existing Tree
 - Proposed Tree



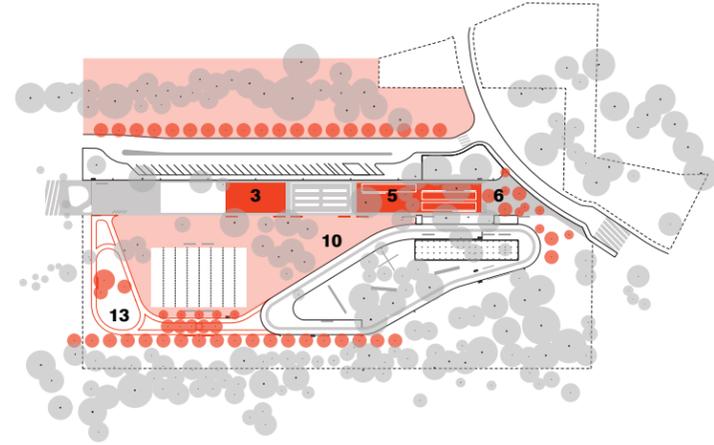
PHASING + IMPLEMENTATION DIAGRAMS

Note: Program numbers refer to Site Plan legend



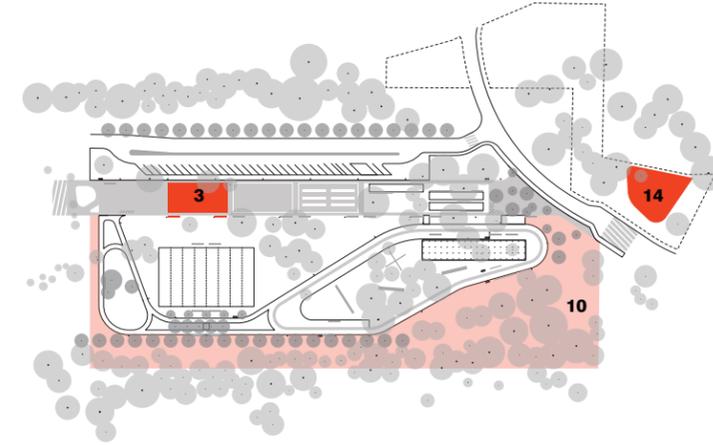
PHASE 1: 50%

- 1 Parking**
- 2 Activity Strip**
- 4 Covered Picnic/ Party Area**
- 7 Nature Play**
- 8 Traditional Play Equipment**
- 10 Climbing Wall**
- 11 Soccer Field**
- 12 Teaching Garden**
- 13 Main Loop + Tricycle Loop**
- 17 Bridge to IDEA School**
- Signage + Wayfinding
- Stormwater Infrastructure
- Lighting + Electrical Infrastructure
- Irrigation System
- Benches
- Waste Receptacles



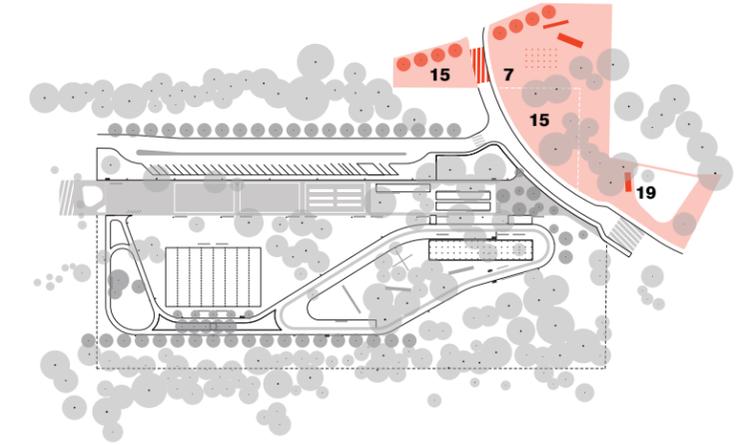
PHASE 2: 25% (75% COMPLETED)

- 3 Basketball Court**
- 5 Game Courts + Sandboxes**
- 6 Entry Grove**
- 10 Pollinator Meadow**
- 13 Loop Extension**
- Signage + Wayfinding
- Lighting
- Benches
- Waste Receptacles



PHASE 3: 10% (85% COMPLETED)

- 3 Basketball Court**
- 10 Pollinator Meadow**
- 14 Community Garden**
- Signage + Wayfinding
- Irrigation System
- Benches
- Waste Receptacles

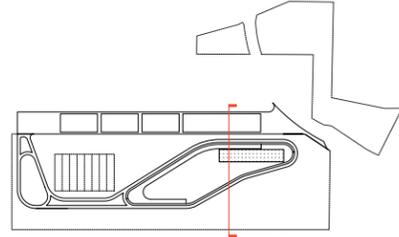


PHASE 4: 15% (100% COMPLETED)

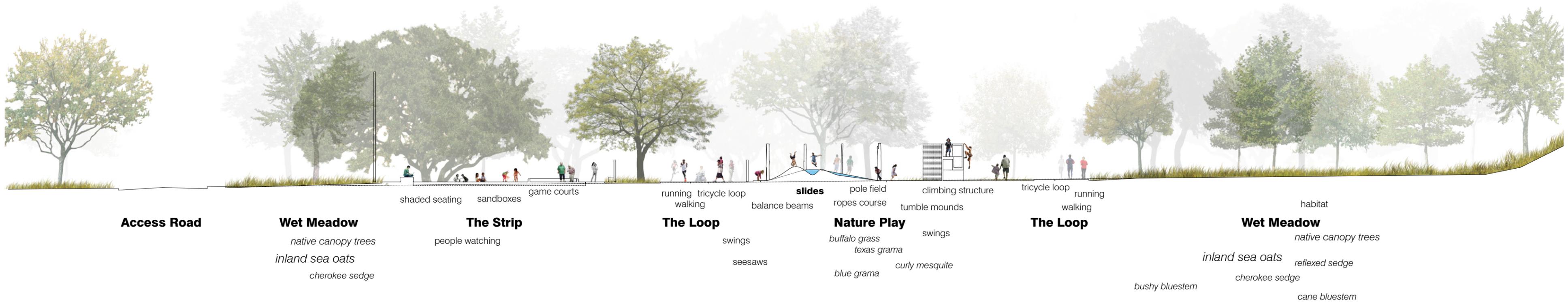
- 7 Nature Play**
- 15 Unstructured Play**
- 19 Community Garden Shelter**
- Signage + Wayfinding
- Plant Trees
- Benches
- Waste Receptacles

SECTION 1: EAST-WEST THRU THE LOOP + NATURE PLAY

0 20' 40' 80'

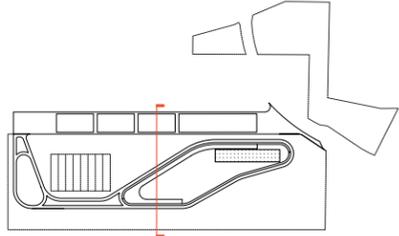


key plan



SECTION 2: EAST-WEST THRU THE STRIP, THE LOOP. + NATURE PLAY

0 20' 40' 80'



key plan



Access Road

Parking

The Strip

Dry Meadow

The Loop

Nature Play

The Loop

Wet Meadow

permeable paving

shaded seating

covered picnic tables
children's birthday parties

pollinator garden

benches
running walking
tricycle loop
stretching

climbing wall

people watching
stretching
biking
running walking

benches
storm water infiltration
habitat

native canopy trees
big bluestem

sideoats grama
indiangrass
lemon beebalm
indian paintbrush

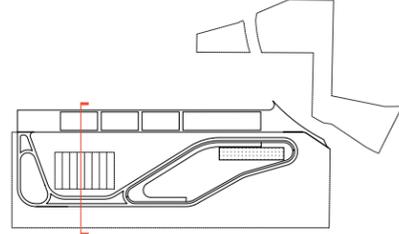
white prairie clover
texas bluebonnet
little bluestem

buffalo grass
texas grama
blue grama
curly mesquite

native canopy trees
inland sea oats
reflexed sedge
cherokee sedge
bushy bluestem
cane bluestem

SECTION 3: EAST-WEST THRU THE STRIP, THE FIELD, + THE LOOP

0 20' 40' 80'



key plan



Access Road

Parking

The Strip

Dry Meadow

The Field

The Loop

Wet Meadow

permeable paving

basketball

pollinator garden

football

soccer

seating area

running walking

biking

benches

storm water infiltration habitat

native canopy trees

big bluestem

sideoats grama

white prairie clover

lemon beebalm

indiangrass

little bluestem

indian paintbrush

texas bluebonnet

buffalo grass

texas grama

blue grama

curly mesquite

native canopy trees

inland sea oats

reflexed sedge

cherokee sedge

bushy bluestem

cane bluestem





ENTRY PERSPECTIVE

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